

Foreword

And FORWARD indeed we go. *Links & Letters* continues to be the only journal that publishes academic articles in a fresh, accessible way so that all those people who take an interest in English studies, whether it is professional or not, can keep abreast of current ideas and terminology. We are very pleased to welcome our readers to issue number 4 of *Links & Letters* devoted to a burgeoning field of study known as post-colonial literature and theory. Owing to the fact that few specialists seem to agree on the correct term to use (with or without a hyphen), we have decided to call our monographic issue «Literature and Neocolonialism». Moreover, it seems obvious to most people that in spite of the political independence of many Third World countries, they remain economically and sometimes culturally dependent on the West. The first two articles in this issue deal with these more theoretical points. Theo D'haen discusses the implications of the actual terminology used in this subdiscipline of English studies, while Graham Huggan's article analyzes how postcolonial writing is confronting the neocoloniality of our present time.

The remaining four articles apply post-colonial theories to current works of literature. Feroza Jussawalla suggests that by examining the subgenre of the *bildungsroman*, certain mainstream and traditionally colonial writers such as Rudyard Kipling, Mark Twain and even V.S. Naipaul could be regarded as truly post-colonial. Stephanie Newell shows how one of Gabriel García Márquez's best known novels presents a clear challenge to post-colonial theories of migration and displacement in its dynamic nationalist discourse. Ireland is placed under the microscope in Mireia Aragay's article, in which she deconstructs traditional myths of Irish womanhood. Christel R. Devadawson looks at how Hanif Kureishi and Sara Suleri have reconstructed Kipling's character Mowgli in a post-colonial setting.

Following the recently established tradition of our journal, we have incorporated an annotated bibliography on post-colonial theory, which is aimed at signposting the way for beginners in this innovative field of study. Instead of our usual interview with one leading specialist on the state of the art, we have decided to include a «round-table» interview with eight scholars (some of whom are themselves creative writers) as, by definition, post-colonial studies seek to question notions of «centre» and «margin», which precludes us from presenting any one person as «the» specialist in the area. The section on book reviews follows with a total of nine publications (seven theoretical, two on

creative writing) related to post-colonial theory and practice published since 1993. In *Notes and News*, the last section, you will find information about the different cultural and academic activities in which our department is involved.

We hope that Issue 4 of *Links & Letters* clarifies any doubts that may have existed about post-colonial theories and, at the same time, foments and provokes further discussions and debates around this field of research. Our aim is precisely this: to forge a link between our readers and all areas of English studies.

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